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Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction

Report of the First Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. Abdelhamid **Gharbi** (Tunisia)

I. Introduction

1. The item entitled "Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction" was included in the provisional agenda of the sixty-first session of the General Assembly in accordance with Assembly resolution 60/96 of 8 December 2005.

2. At its 2nd plenary meeting, on 13 September 2006, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include the item in its agenda and to allocate it to the First Committee.

3. At its 1st meeting, on 28 September 2006, the First Committee decided to hold a general debate on all disarmament and international security items allocated to it, namely, items 82 to 97, which was held at the 2nd to 7th meetings, from 2 to 6 and on 9 October (see A/C.1/61/PV.2-7). Thematic discussions on the items were held, and draft resolutions were introduced and considered, at the 8th to 19th meetings, from 9 to 12, from 16 to 20 and on 23 October (see A/C.1/61/PV.8-19). Action on all draft resolutions was taken at the 19th to 23rd meetings, on 23, from 25 to 27 and on 30 October (see A/C.1/61/PV.19-23).

4. No documents were submitted for consideration under this item.

II. Consideration of draft resolution A/C.1/61/L.27

5. At the 12th meeting, on 12 October, the representative of Hungary introduced a draft resolution entitled "Convention on the Prohibition of the Development,

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Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction" (A/C.1/61/L.27).

6. At the 19th meeting, on 23 October, the Secretary of the Committee read out a statement regarding programme budget implications arising from the draft resolution (see A/C.1/61/PV.19).

7. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.1/61/L.27 without a vote (see para. 8).

III. Recommendation of the First Committee

8. The First Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction

The General Assembly,

Recalling its previous resolutions relating to the complete and effective prohibition of bacteriological (biological) and toxin weapons and to their destruction,

Noting with satisfaction that there are one hundred and fifty-five States parties to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction,[1] including all of the permanent members of the Security Council,

Bearing in mind its call upon all States parties to the Convention to participate in the implementation of the recommendations of the Review Conferences, including the exchange of information and data agreed to in the Final Declaration of the Third Review Conference of the Parties to the Convention,[2] and to provide such information and data in conformity with standardized procedure to the Secretary-General on an annual basis and no later than 15 April,

Welcoming the reaffirmation made in the Final Declaration of the Fourth Review Conference[3] that under all circumstances the use of bacteriological (biological) and toxin weapons and their development, production and stockpiling are effectively prohibited under article I of the Convention,

1. *Reaffirms* the call upon all signatory States that have not yet ratified the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction[1] to do so without delay, and calls upon those States that have not signed the Convention to become parties thereto at an early date, thus contributing to the achievement of universal adherence to the Convention;

2. *Welcomes* the information and data provided to date, and reiterates its call upon all States parties to the Convention to participate in the exchange of information and data agreed to in the Final Declaration of the Third Review Conference of the Parties to the Convention;[2]

3. *Appreciates* the significant participation of the States parties at the meetings of States parties and meetings of experts to date and the constructive and useful exchange of information achieved;

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[1] Resolution 2826 (XXVI), annex.

[2] BWC/CONF.III/23, part II.

[3] BWC/CONF.IV/9, part II.

4. *Welcomes* the discussion and the promotion of common understanding and effective action on topics agreed upon at the Fifth Review Conference:[4] the adoption of necessary national measures to implement the prohibitions set forth in the Convention, including the enactment of penal legislation, and national mechanisms to establish and maintain the security and oversight of pathogenic micro-organisms and toxins in 2003; enhancing international capabilities for responding to, investigating and mitigating the effects of cases of alleged use of biological or toxin weapons or suspicious outbreaks of disease and strengthening and broadening national and international institutional efforts and existing mechanisms for the surveillance, detection, diagnosis and combating of infectious diseases affecting humans, animals and plants in 2004; and the content, promulgation and adoption of codes of conduct for scientists in 2005;

5. *Recalls* that the Sixth Review Conference was mandated to consider issues identified in the review of the operation of the Convention as provided for in article XII thereof and any possible consensus follow-up action;

6. *Welcomes* the convening of the Sixth Review Conference in Geneva from 20 November to 8 December 2006, pursuant to the decision reached by the Preparatory Committee of the States Parties to the Convention;[5]

7. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to render the necessary assistance to the depositary Governments of the Convention and to provide such services as may be required for the implementation of the decisions and recommendations of the Review Conferences;

8. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-second session, also in view of the outcome of the Sixth Review Conference, the item entitled "Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction".

[4] See BWC/CONF.V/17.

[5] See BWC/CONF.VI/PC/2, para. 17.